



MID-ATLANTIC

News Letter



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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the
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No. 10

BE REALISTIC

Budget time is here and we all should be planning ahead to next year. We should submit realistic figures to our membership, don't just take this years expenses and add 10% to each category, sit down and analyze the situation.

There seems to be three trends of thought when budgeting, the most negative one being, they are not going to give me what I ask for so why bother. The other extreme is I need \$125,000 so I better ask for \$150,000 because they always cut my proposals at least 10%, and finally the straight line approach which is the most ethical by far. Every relationship should be based on honesty and the Superintendent Membership relationship is no exception. I firmly believe that the dollars spent on course maintenance are very well spent and the club member gets more than his money's worth in our department. I also believe that the Mid-Atlantic Superintendent are very much below what we should be in Salaries and Budgets. One example which may be of interest to you is the Metropolitan Golf Association, Course Maintenance Survey of 1971. Thirty nine member clubs in North Jersey, Long Island, Westchester County and Fairfield County, Connecticut came up with an average cost of course maintenance of \$110,466 the low was \$64,700 and the high was \$202,640. The average salary was \$14,894 the low was \$11,000 and the high was \$22,500. You may remember our last survey in which we had to figure in all our fringe benefits to come up with the same average. Something is wrong fellas. Certainly our season is longer and our conditions are more adverse; why shouldn't our budgets and salaries be greater. True, the conditions around New York are not ideal and the counties are wealthy. If any of you kept track of the last census, Montgomery County, Maryland was number 1 in the country in income and Fairfax County, Virginia was number 2, so don't say we don't have it.

Perhaps, we don't have the kind of course we can be proud of at the end of the year and we may be ashamed to ask for more money. What members fail to understand is we may have worked as hard to have a good course as a Supt. in another area did to have an excellent course. We may also have a negative attitude and we could be saying well the Poa goes out every Summer anyhow or the goose-grass gets in even if I use a pre-emergence, so what's the use?

If this is the kind of attitude you have, you may as well lay down and make room for the next guy because you sure won't be around long. There is no excuse for not having a better course each year. We can't expect miracles or complete transformations but we can make gradual and sometimes significant improvements each year. You must be a good salesman to accomplish this. Sell yourself and sell your programs and you may be surprised how much golfers are willing to invest.

George B. Thompson Pres.

CAVALIER COUNTRY CLUB

Our last month's meeting was a joint meeting with the Delaware, Philadelphia, and Mid-Atlantic associations. Art Menard was our host superintendent. (The Cavalier golf course was built by Russel Roberts in 1960.)

Art Menard's course was exceptionally well manicured. Early signs of fall, cool, humidity free weather, brought out a large field of 60 golfers. Everyone enjoyed the course and many prizes were awarded.

Low Net

- 1 - Tom Comalli
- 2 - Lou Rudinski
- 3 - Ron Hall
- 4 - Dave Holler
- 5 - Ron Nolb
- 6 - John Segui

Low Gross

- 1 - Dave Linde
- 2 - Harry Scott

Closest to Hole

Percy Vickers

Longest Drive

Don Pakkala

Our business portions of the meeting was very much different and interesting. Mayor Haskal of Wilmington, Delaware and Ed Rendall, assistant chief of homicide of Philadelphia spoke on the administration of criminal justice. They both painted a gloomy picture of the criminal injustice in today's court system. Rapid trial by jury, the American way of justice, can't keep up with our population explosion. Many problems and possible solutions were discussed which illustrated the keen interest the presentation stimulated concerning the present day judicial system.

OCTOBER MEETING - 2ND THURSDAY

The October meeting of the Mid-Atlantic will be held the second Thursday, October 12, 1972 at the Eagles Nest Golf Course. This is the day of our annual Mid-Atlantic golf tournament. Our host will be Bill Emerson. Golf can be played anytime after 11:00 a.m. The social hour will be at 6:30 and dinner will be at 7:00 p.m. Our speaker will be golf course architect Geoffrey Cornish. Every Mid-Atlantic member is qualified to participate in the golf tournament, so let's have a record attendance.

Directions to the club: From Baltimore Beltway 695 take exit # 27 North - Timonium, Md. Go approximately 6 miles to Delaney Valley Road. Eagles Nest Golf Course is on the left, across from the Baltimore City Gun Range.

MID-ATLANTIC COURSE MAINTENANCE SURVEY

We will shortly undertake to compile a new and different survey unlike any the Mid-Atlantic has done in years past.

This survey will show a comparison of operating costs of all major golf course related expenses.

Since no two clubs have similar expenses or methods of cost accounting we will classify each club under one of four headings based on your club's annual income from dues of your fiscal 1972 year. No club names will be used and of course all information received from our questionnaire will be confidential.

The data from your questionnaire will be used to determine the average, high, and low operating expenses of Mid-Atlantic area golf courses.

Next month you will receive a questionnaire inserted within your newsletter. Look it over and if you have any questions jot them down and bring them to the November superintendents meeting at Bill Livingston's Norbeck Country Club. If for some unexcusable reason you can't attend and still have questions please give me a call at Manor Country Club - 929-1707, or at home 929-1038 (Craig Spottswood). The last section of this survey will show the percentage of those clubs not responding or returning our questionnaire. Will we have a big fat "0"???

PENN STATE FIELD DAY

Unfortunately rain hindered the turf plot viewing at Penn State. The crowds of people in attendance managed to see all the field test plots and were fortunate in not being completely rained out.

The turf plots on display showed results of currently used herbicides, fungicides and fertilizers on a wide variety of grass species and at different applications rates. Many of our popular grass varieties have originated from Penn State. Several species, old and new, were on test plots at Penn State for evaluation under different management practices.

Mid-Atlantic members present were Bob Bingham, Mike Liska, Mike Claffey, Joe Baidy, Russel Kerns, and Ken Braun.

ANGELO CAMMAROTA C.G.C.S.

Angie Cammarota has a double celebration in his career this year. He became a Certified Golf Course Superintendent on September 15, and he also celebrates his 25th year as a member of the National GCSAA. Angie first joined the National in 1947 while working at his father's course, Tavistock C.C. in Lindenwald, New Jersey.

Congratulations from the whole Mid-Atlantic, Angie. You give us proof of the results which come from hard work and dedication to the profession.

ANOTHER MEMBER TO THE THOMPSON FAMILY

Congratulations to George and Jacqueline Thompson on the birth of a healthy 7 lb. 12 oz. baby girl. Sara Ann was born on September 10, 1972 and joins two sisters - Julie, aged 7, and Regina, aged 3, and a brother George, Jr., aged 5.

V. P. I. FIELD DAY

Even though Blackburg, Virginia, home of V.P.I., is a formidable drive from the Washington area, the Mid-Atlantic was well represented at the turf plots of V.P.I. Lee Dieter, Dave Fairbanks, Angie Cammarota, Sam Kessel, Ed Schmitt, and your newsletter editor were the superintendents from our area, backed up by our sod producers, Sheldon Betterly and Parker Shirling. Some of our suppliers present were Junior Rutman, Dick Hall, George Wingo, Paul Spelman, John Gross and Strict Newsom. Ed Dembnicki was also there!

A well planned program was presented involving variations of different grass species, mixtures and blends, shade tolerance test plots, fertilization practices (including a helicopter demonstration of fairway fertilizing) herbicide and fungicide tests, and large display of new turf equipment by several manufacturers.

Our thanks go to the Virginia Tech turfgrass staff for their efforts and work, and also for a fine banquet dinner.

PLANT SOME BULBS THIS FALL

A continuous succession of color for practically half of the garden season can be achieved by planting spring flowering bulbs. They are the easiest flowers to grow and will provide the same quantity and quality of bloom for several years. Bulbs are the first large group of flowering plants to announce the arrival of spring.

Flowering bulbs are used most effectively when planted in solid beds, clumps, or in naturalistic areas. Naturalizing is planting bulbs in fairly large, irregular areas, often among well separated trees or shrubs on land not otherwise cultivated. Daffodils, crocus, chionodoxas, and other small bulbs are most often used. The planting method is to throw a handful out on the ground a short distance in front of you, then plant them where they fall.

Bulbous flowers demand well-drained, humus, rich soil of loose consistency. Good drainage is crucial. Bulbs just won't tolerate a water-logged condition; they fail to grow well and the bulbs will rot and disappear. Although any well drained soil will grow bulbs, best results are obtained with soils of high fertility, rich in organic matter and adequately supplied with lime and plant nutrients. Fresh organic material should never come in contact with bulbs in the soil; any organic matter should be well rotted and thoroughly mixed with the soil before bulb planting. Use only well decomposed materials. The soil should be porous well below the base of the bulb for adequate root development.

A general guideline of planting depth is to dig a hole three times the greatest diameter of the bulb. Plant all bulbs at a uniform depth. Usually a four inch cup cutter will work very well in digging holes to a uniform depth and size.

Hardy bulbs left in the ground all year become crowded as the result of natural increase, the stems become shorter and flowers smaller. Bulbs, therefore, must be dug and replanted or replaced every three to five years depending on the species and the rate of increase. Some bulbs will increase in number by division or self seeding. These include daffodils, crocuses, chionodoxas, scillas, grape hyacinths and snow drops.

Purchase bulbs from reliable dealers well known in the trade. Avoid bargains and cheap mixtures. They are usually inferior to graded bulbs. Bulbs are graded by size and shape when offered for sale.

One last note, after the summer color from the annuals have gone, put in some chrysanthemums for some fall color.

WHY TOPDRESS

The answer to "Why Topdress" originates deep in the basic tenets of agriculture and anyone who manages fine turf would do well to learn the real reasons for topdressing and should become aware of the damage he does to the valuable turf entrusted to his expert care if he does not know this answer and does not observe the principles involved.

The answer comes from the laboratory of the microbiologist, from the rules for successful composting, from the time proven practices of the agronomists, from the findings of soil chemists and physicists.

The answer, derived from these many sources, might be expressed in this way, "To bury the dead and succour the living." This abstruse answer demands explanation.

To better explain this statement let us agree to describe the cross section of turf from the top of the grass plant down to just below the main root mass as "The Growth Zone."

Within this "Growth Zone" there is a complexity of life processes which are interdependent and upon which, to varying degrees, success or failure in turf culture depend. The processes are: physical growth of grass plants, often under adverse conditions; photosynthesis carried out by leaves which are constantly being mowed, sprayed and trampled; chemical reactions relating to fungicides, fertilizers, herbicides, and water borne minerals and other chemicals; biological reactions relating to the decomposition of dead plant and animal tissue; and to the micro-biological population which increases or decreases as conditions determine. These, and other processes, must be properly maintained to insure healthy satisfactory turf and turf grass.

Where does topdressing fit in this "Growth Zone" complex.

Topdressing is a prime requisite for the optimum functioning of the "Growth Zone." These are the ways in which topdressing contributes to this optimum functioning.

- (1) It provides a physical separator to keep plant and animal residues from matting into an impervious mass which would be a barrier to passage of air, water, and chemicals, and which would be a serious deterrent to decomposition.
- (2) It introduces a buffering agent to modify chemical reactions.
- (3) It physically supports the plants to help absorb the shock of compacting factors.
- (4) It introduces and supports microbiological activity so essential to the prevention of an undesirable amount of thatch.
- (5) It builds up the soil surface slowly.
- (6) It maintains a friability in the "Growth Zone" which assures a proper degree of porosity.
- (7) It ultimately produces a soil of a sandy loam texture.

WITHOUT PROPER TOPDRESSING, EXCESSIVE THATCH CONTROL BECAME THE RULE. THE NEED OF CONSTANT MECHANICAL AERIFICATION AND THATCH CONTROL BECAME THE RULE. THE OLD TIME "GREENSKEEPER," ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW TECHNICAL REASONS FOR TOPDRESSING, CERTAINLY KNEW THAT GOOD GREENS WERE THOSE WHICH WERE PROPERLY TOPDRESSED.

Edward F. Morse
Former Superintendent
Maryland Golf and Country Club
Bel Air, Maryland

Editors note: Additional benefits in topdressing;

- a. Reduced grain; upright growth encouraged.
- b. Disease reduced - as thatch breaks down, disease and insect problems are reduced.
- c. Improved air, water, and fertilizer penetration.
- d. Winter desiccation reduced when topsoil covers crown of plant.

HOW MUCH TOP SOIL NEEDED

The amount of topsoil needed for a given area is determined by multiplying the area involved by the depth in inches desired, and dividing this total by 10, a factor for loosened soil. This gives cubic feet. To convert to cubic yards, divide cubic feet by 27.

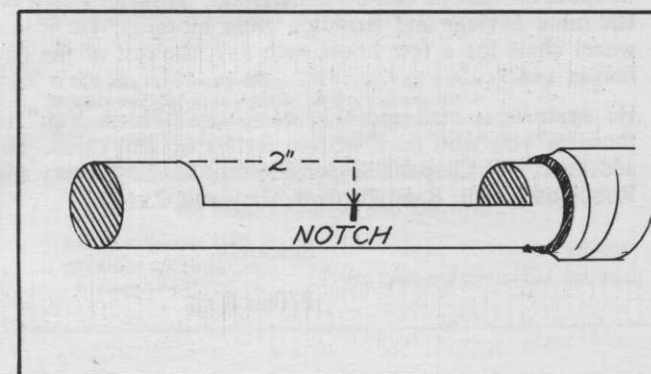
Example - Putting green area 7,000 square feet, 12 inches deep $7,000 \times 12 = 84,000 \div 10 = 8,400$ cu. ft. $\div 27 = 311.1$ cu. yds.

The approximate volume of topdressing needed has been determined in the book, Turf Management.

Depth Desired	3,000 sq. ft.		5,000 sq. ft.		7,000 sq. ft.	
	cu. ft.	cu. yd.	cu. ft.	cu. yd.	cu. ft.	cu. yd.
1/8"	31.2	1.2	52.0	1.9	72.8	2.7
1/4"	62.4	2.3	104.0	3.9	145.6	5.8

The O.J. Noer Sampling Tool, illustrated below made from a discarded steel golf shaft is an excellent tool for sampling. (Courtesy Milwaukee Sewage Commission)

Soil Sampler Made from a Golf Shaft



NEW SOIL TESTING SERVICE OFFERED BY MISSISSIPPI STATE AND GREEN SECTION

The Green Section of the USGA has entered into an agreement with Mississippi State University whereby the latter will test soils and make recommendations for putting soil mixes based on the Green Section Specifications. Dr. Coleman Y. Ward will be in charge of the laboratory work. The opening of the laboratory again makes it possible for golf courses and golf course architects throughout the country to utilize the latest information in putting green soils research.

The new laboratory is equipped to carry out a complete physical analysis within a week to ten days after receipt of material. This includes a study of sands, soils and organic materials received; the synthesis and testing of trial mixtures; and recommendations for a suitable mixture for putting green construction. For this complete study and recommendation, a charge of \$100.00 is made and payable to Mississippi State University.

A laboratory analysis will require a minimum of one gallon of sand, soil and organic matter available to your club. If there is a choice of sands, soils and organic materials, send samples of each together with a note indicating your preference based on cost, easy accessibility, etc. The laboratory will attempt to use your preferred materials in the recommended mixture.

Soil materials should be addressed to:

Mississippi State University
Attention: Mr. Coleman Y. Ward
P. O. Box 5248
State College, Mississippi 39762

NEWSLETTER MAILBAG

The following letter was received from Mrs. Jim Reid, whose husband was the former superintendent at Suburban Country Club, Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Members of the Mid-Atlantic Association:

Jim, as some of you know, has been sick for a long time. In fact, it was six years ago last May when he broke his leg and he hasn't been well since.

He has always had a great interest in the Mid-Atlantic Association and that interest has not diminished in the least. I read portions of every Newsletter to him and he always wants to know where the next meeting will be held.

If he could see to read, time would pass more quickly. His throat muscles have become so weak that it is very difficult to speak so that he can be understood. However, he tries. His mind is clear and that is a great blessing. He is in a wheel chair for a few hours each day, the rest of the day he's in bed.

He appreciates mail and I'd like to say "Thank You" to those of you who have written letters or sent cards. His address is still Chapel Hill Convalescent Home, Liberty and Robosson Roads, Randallstown, Maryland 21133.

Sincerely,

Esther Reid

NEW MID-ATLANTIC MEMBERS

The following people have been approved for membership in our Mid-Atlantic Association, pending our 30 day approval period.

- (1) Robert Novelli - class D
- (2) Jerome Robine - class D
- (3) Thomas Lavery - class H
- (4) F. Leslie Futrell - class E

INFRARED HOLDS PROMISE FOR TURFGRASS

The following article is reprinted from the January, 1972 issue of Weeds Trees and Turf.

Aerial infrared photography could become a quick and efficient tool in turfgrass management. That's what Robert L. Fleming of Environmental Surveys, Inc., a California based firm, told members of the 26th annual Turfgrass Conference at Texas A & M University last December.

Fleming reported that surveys not only detect plant vitality but can show irrigation efficiency and loss of plant vigor before serious damage occurs.

Infrared filming saves time, he reported. It locates sub-surface rock conditions, moisture, movement, sprinkling profiles and soil types. He cited a number of uses of infrared aerial photography. One was the problem of finding soil deep enough to reforest a mountainside. Infrared detected streaks of soil that would take the trees.

Possibly the most interesting and promising project underway, Fleming said, is a survey of 12,000 to 15,000 acres in California to determine the most likely place to tap tremendous steam resources 3,000 to 8,000 feet below the ground surface.

Such steam fields offer an almost unlimited source of power for electricity generation, he said.

WORLD GOLF - SOME FACTS

The United States has more golf courses than any other country. There are over 8½ million golf courses, which means one for every 950 golfers.

Iceland has a very short season for their nine courses, but they have a 24 hour playing day without artificial lighting.

Japan has only one golf course for every 4,000 golfers. Most of the courses are private. People wait for hours to get on a public course and when they get on, they stay all day. Japan thrives on driving ranges because land is precious and confined. Tokyo has a driving range three stories high with players driving from all three levels. The caddies are kimono-clad ladies. Caddie fees are pro-rated by the pound - fewer clubs, light bag - cheaper caddie!

The roughs of the Royal Hong Kong course are rented for cattle grazing.

In Mexico, all of the 41 courses are private. There is little play in the afternoons because of siesta time.

(Editor's note: Do the superintendents take afternoon siestas too?)

LADIES NIGHT
HAS NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN
SPRINGFIELD C. C. NOV. 3rd

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"Whoever could make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together."

Quote from PROTURF ISSUE FOUR, O. M. Scott & Son publication.

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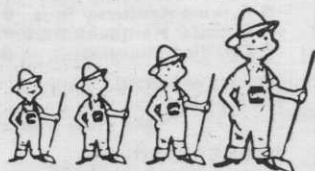
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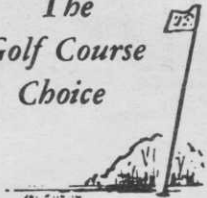
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*Send this application with annual due to: Maryland Turfgrass Council
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MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

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